

Appln. No. 10/782,117  
Amendment dated September 26, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed May 26, 2005

**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheet of drawings includes an additional figure, namely Figure 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3 is a "New Sheet".

Attachment: New Sheet

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### REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 6 and 8 through 9 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn. Claims 10 through 17 have been added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

#### Part 1 of the Office Action

The drawings have been objected to.

Submitted herewith is applicant's proposed amendment of the drawing. Specifically, a Figure 3 has been added (and the specification amended accordingly) to reflect the variation described in the text of the application at page 5, beginning at line 4. The new Figure 3 is submitted to show the requirement of feature of a bow along the longitudinal axis (as recited in original claim 8—now in claim 1), and also the requirement that the medial portion is offset from the ends (as required in claim 8).

In light of the drawing amendment, it is therefore submitted that the objection to the drawings as originally filed has been overcome, and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

#### Parts 2 through 4 of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by De Vaughn.

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shen.

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Claims 2, 3, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen.

Claims 6 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen in view of Kawashima.

Claim 1, particularly as amended, requires "wherein said elongated sheath is bowed along a longitudinal axis of said elongated sheath whereby said elongated sheath securely engages the end of the rotary blade as it is inserted into said opening". As noted in the disclosure of the application, this feature permits the blade to be inserted into the sheath for a distance before the blade becomes lodged or hung up in the sheath, which makes accidental withdrawal of the blade less likely while the user is using the sheath to hold the blade. The relatively small offset facilitates removal with a pull after the user has completed his or her use of the sheath.

It is therefore submitted that the cited patents, and especially the allegedly obvious combination of De Vaughn, Shen, and Kawashima set forth in the rejection of the Office Action, would not lead one skilled in the art to the applicant's invention as required by claim 1. Further, claims 2 through 6 and 9, which depend from claim 1, also include the requirements discussed above and therefore are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) and §103(a) rejection of claims 1 through 6 and 8 through 9 is therefore respectfully requested.

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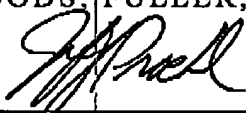
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**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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